

Voluntary Principles Initiative – Guidance on Certain Role and Responsibilities of Companies

The Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights are a set of principles designed to guide companies in maintaining the safety and security of their operations within an operating framework that encourages respect for human rights. The duty to protect human rights rests with governments, but other actors in society, including business, have a responsibility to respect human rights. Extractives companies therefore have a unique opportunity in the countries in which they operate to encourage high standards of conduct by security forces, and to have a positive impact on local governance, peace and stability.

This document describes the roles and responsibilities that Corporate Participants in the Initiative of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (“Voluntary Principles Initiative” or “VPI”) will strive to implement to the extent feasible in each operating context.

GENERAL GOOD PRACTICE	IMPLEMENTATION	PROMOTION
<p>Commitment to the Rules of the VPI</p> <p>Participants in the Corporate Pillar are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abide by the Governance Rules; and • Attend Annual Plenary Meetings, and as appropriate and commensurate with resource constraints, Extraordinary Plenary Meetings. <p>Engagement in the VPI</p> <p>Participants in the Corporate Pillar are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in Pillar Meetings; • Participate in Working Groups; • Participate in in-country meetings; • Promote cross-Pillar coordination to support implementation of the Voluntary Principles; and • Work to maintain the Voluntary Principles Initiative as a leading multi-stakeholder initiative, aligned with international norms 	<p>Rule of Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record and report credible allegations of security-related incidents with human rights implications by public security forces (in areas of operation related to company activities) to appropriate host government authorities and, where appropriate, urge investigation and that actions be taken to prevent any recurrence; • Actively monitor investigation status and press for their proper resolution; and • Support efforts by states and civil society organizations to strengthen state institutions to ensure accountability and respect for human rights. <p>Risk Assessment</p> <p>Undertake risk assessments as outlined in the Voluntary Principles, and integrate the findings into management systems.</p>	<p>Public Expressions of Commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate on efforts to implement the Voluntary Principles at least annually within the VPI; and • Communicate on efforts to implement the Voluntary Principles to external stakeholders. <p>Outreach to Internal Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize employee awareness of Voluntary Principles and capacity to implement them, including through training workshops, provision of guidance and sharing of best practices; and • Promote Voluntary Principles with contractors and sub-contractors. <p>Outreach to External Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the Voluntary Principles at international fora;

<p>and best practice in the field of business and human rights.</p> <p>Transparency and Dialogue</p> <p>Participants in the Corporate Pillar are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit annual reports on efforts to implement or assist in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles; • Communicate publicly, at least annually, on efforts to implement or assist in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles; • Participate in dialogue with other Participants; and • Provide timely responses to reasonable requests for information from other Participants in order to facilitate greater understanding of issues related to implementation of the Voluntary Principles. <p>Participants in the Corporate Pillar will endeavor to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information about their efforts to implement or assist in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles with other Participants and the public. 	<p>Policies, Procedures & Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate the Voluntary Principles into company policy framework and business practices; • Develop supporting implementation and guidance documents/tools for on-the-ground operations; • Develop indicators and use relevant processes to assess and address the company’s implementation of the Voluntary Principles at relevant levels – e.g., facility, country, regional, etc. <p>Public Security Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage interactions with public security providers in accordance with the Voluntary Principles and, when feasible, include references to the Voluntary Principles in agreements for the provision of public security; • Take appropriate measures to avoid the use of individuals who are credibly implicated in human rights abuses to provide security services; and • Take appropriate measures to encourage appropriate use of force only when strictly necessary and to an extent proportional to the threat and that the rights of individuals are not violated. <p>Private Security Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage sourcing, contracting, service delivery, and other interactions with private security providers, so that they are conducted in accordance with the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the Voluntary Principles in external industry fora/associations; • Promote the Voluntary Principles with host governments and authorities (national, state and local); • Work with civil society organizations, local NGOs and partners to promote and understand the Voluntary Principles; and • Engage with local communities to promote and understand the Voluntary Principles.
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	<p>Voluntary Principles.</p> <p>Accountability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare annual reports and communicate on Voluntary Principles implementation, consistent with the reporting guidelines and verification framework; • Participate in dialogue with fellow Participants and external stakeholders around the VPI, implementation, and experience; • Consult and encourage engagement with host governments and local communities about company security arrangements; and • Actively cooperate through legitimate processes (e.g., existing grievance mechanisms) to respond to and remediate adverse impacts which have been identified as being caused by or contributed to by the company's actions. 	
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